

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – 27 MARCH 2003**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Bell (Designee of Cara Metz, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historic Commission)
Marcie Bilinski (Dive Community Representative)
Terry French (Designee of John Warner, State Archivist)
John Hoagland (Dive Community Representative)
Lenny Loparto (Designee of Brona Simon, State Archaeologist)
Richard Murray (Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)
Joe Pelczarski (Designee of Thomas Skinner, Director of Coastal Zone Management)
Nancy Thornton (Director of DEM Division of Waterways)
Victor Mastone, Director (Staff for the Board)
David W. Trubey, Deputy Director (Staff for the Board)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brendan Foley (Marine Archaeologist)

PROCEEDINGS:

The public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources was convened by the Director, Victor Mastone, at 1:30 PM on 27 March 2003 in the CZM Conference Room at 251 Causeway Street, Boston.

1. MINUTES

A. Minutes of 30 January 2003

Victor asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes of the public meeting held on 30 January 2003. There were no comments or corrections to the minutes.

Joe Pelczarski moved to accept the minutes of the public meeting held on 30 January 2003. Terry French seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Victor reported that the Board is not pushing forward with many of the initiatives presented at previous meetings due to a reduction in the capital budget for the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Although some of the Board's budget is earmarked for projects including an archaeological survey for the Oxford Dam project, some small cooperative projects with the Department of Environmental Law Enforcement and equipment purchases, larger projects will likely be put on hold for the year due to the State's fiscal crisis.

3. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

There were no Board member reports.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: OUTREACH

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A. Bay State Council of Divers

Victor reported that David Trubey attended the February meeting of the Bay State Council of Divers. He showed Council members video footage of NOAA's rediscovery of the steamship *Portland* in the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and answered questions regarding that site and future projects for the Board.

B. Boston Sea Rovers

Victor reported that he gave a talk at the Boston Sea Rovers 49th Underwater Clinic on March 9th. The presentation was entitled *Stone Circles, Canoes and A Piano* and addressed the Board's incorporation of volunteers in its work from the Board members themselves, to the permittees, to divers and researchers such as Chris Hugo. Victor's discussion was part of a session on avocational underwater archaeology and followed presentations by Dr. Susan Langley of the Maryland Historical Trust's Maritime Archaeology Program and James Smailes and T. Kurt Knoerl, both of whom represent the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society (MAHS) based in Washington, DC. The session also served as an excellent opportunity for individuals who have been trying to create an avocational underwater archaeology group in Massachusetts to meet the people from such a well-established program as MAHS. Victor noted that the session seemed to be well attended by many divers who have volunteered on Board projects in the past. John Hoagland added that he had met some members of MHAS at the Society for Historical Archeology Conference in January and discussed the possibility of collaborating on a project with the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Program.

C. North Shore Frogmen's Club

Victor reported that he and David Trubey were guests at the March meeting of the North Shore Frogmen's Club. Victor conducted a slide presentation and discussion of marine archaeology in the Commonwealth followed by a question and answer period. The presentation was well received and club members asked several questions regarding the Board, its regulations and projects. Victor noted that as an expression of appreciation, he and David were named Associate Members of the club.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Bassings Cove Maritime Association

Victor reported that Bassings Cove Maritime Association (BCMA) had submitted its Excavation Permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Due to an administrative technicality, the renewal of this permit was postponed from the last meeting. Tom Mulloy was in attendance to present the application on behalf of BCMA.

Mr. Mulloy reported that this year marks the one hundred-fiftieth anniversary of the loss of the vessel *Forrest Queen*. In recognition of this fact, BCMA and the Scituate Historical Society have been working with the Scituate and Marshfield schools to teach children about the wreck and the work that has been conducted at this site. He noted that Dave Ball, a schoolteacher and member the Historical Society, has arranged for busloads of students to see the *Forrest Queen* exhibit at the Scituate Historical Society Maritime and Irish Mossing Museum.

Concerning the site, Mr. Mulloy stated that due to the dredging of Scituate harbor last year, divers from BCMA were not able to visit the site as frequently as other years. He expects that they will be able to dive the site soon and assess any changes that may have occurred during the winter. On one of the last site visits, it was noted that a large section (approximately twenty feet by ten feet) of the main conglomerate was about to fall. BCMA would like to break this section off, as it poses a risk to divers. Mr. Mulloy stated that if the piece were broken off, it would not harm the site in anyway. BCMA would like to get out to the site, perhaps as early as this weekend, and begin re-mapping the site. Mr. Mulloy noted that it has not been mapped in quite some time and it would be helpful to document any movement of the features. He concluded by stating that BCMA has identified two new potential sources of funding to continue with excavation, but that nothing is certain at this time.

John Hoagland asked Mr. Mulloy if the site is visited by many divers who are not affiliated with BCMA. Mr. Mulloy responded that the area in which the wreck is located is a popular location for scuba instruction and

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other diving activities, but that most of the divers don't realize the wreck is there because of its nondescript appearance.

Lenny Loparto asked if the profile diagram of the conglomerate included in the renewal application was drawn to scale or more of an artist's rendering. Mr. Mulloy responded that the drawing was not strictly to scale and was intended to illustrate in a general manner the difference in the bottom depth between the time of the wrecking and present day and to show how the conglomerate formed. Lenny asked which side of the conglomerate has been undercut and is about to fall. Mr. Mulloy stated that it is the northern end of the mass.

Lenny Loparto moved to renew the Excavation Permit (91-001) held by Bassings Cove Maritime Association for its Scituate site with all conditions remaining in effect and the additional condition that the permittee submit for Board approval a site assessment and detailed scope of work prepared by the project archaeologist prior to undertaking any site excavation activities relative to the removal of the main conglomerate. Marcie Bilinski seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

B. Underwater Discoveries Unlimited

Victor reported that Underwater Discoveries Unlimited (UDU) had submitted its Excavation Permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board's Regulations. Oscar Snow and Thomas Jackett were in attendance to present the application on behalf of UDU.

Mr. Snow reported that UDU has a new vessel for this field season and spent a considerable amount of time and effort preparing it for work. Mr. Jackett described the vessel and stated that it is equipped for survey, diving and excavation activity. He noted that the 35-foot vessel has been fitted with a new removable prop wash deflector and has an 8.2-liter General Motors engine.

Victor asked Mr. Snow if the vessel has air lift capability. Mr. Snow responded that it does not at this time, but indicated that it may at a later date. Mr. Snow referred the Board to the list of equipment submitted with UDU's permit renewal application and described the vessel's new boom, mast and stern winches as examples some of the improvements that were made.

Victor asked Mr. Snow if he would describe the area located between the two clusters of magnetic anomalies in the permit area as a trough or a sand bar. Mr. Snow responded that it was more like a hole and reminded the Board that some large, wooden hull remains washed up on the beach from this area a few years ago.

Mr. Jackett stated that having the vessel equipped and ready to go in the water early in the season, could enable UDU to get some survey work done before the placement of lobster pots creates a problem, as it has in past years. Victor asked if the reported sand migration out of the area might help reduce the number of pots set this summer. Mr. Snow responded that some of the lobstermen out of Provincetown have agreed not to place their pots in the survey area. Lenny Loparto suggested that UDU try to be finished with surveying in the shoal areas by June 1st, otherwise the location would be filled with pots. Mr. Snow said that he thinks the majority of the magnetic anomalies that UDU would like to take a closer look at are outside of the heavily lobstered areas, so it is unlikely that there will be a problem. He added that he would like to meet with the president of the Lobstermen's Association directly to discuss the situation and that any plan that comes out of this meeting will be presented to the Board.

Victor asked Mr. Snow when he expects his archaeologist, Barbara Kranichfeld, to be back in the area and ready to start fieldwork. Mr. Snow stated that he expects her to be back around the first week in June. Lenny Loparto asked Mr. Snow to provide the Board with a letter from Ms. Kranichfeld confirming her employment with UDU for this year. Mr. Snow stated that he would provide such a letter and said he would like to have the Board members meet her if they would like to come to the site for a day. He asked if the letter would be required before UDU begins its magnetometer survey. Victor stated that it is not necessary for the Board to have the letter before the magnetometer work, as it is a non-disruptive activity, and stated that the Board is just preparing for the next level of this project. Victor asked if UDU plans to dive to see if any of the anomalies are exposed prior to Ms. Kranichfeld's return. Mr. Snow stated that they would like to check some anomalies as soon as possible.

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Thomas Jackett asked that, as UDU has a new vessel and more specifically a new prop wash deflector, is there any provision to test this device prior to excavation, so that operators will be familiar with its capabilities. He added that it would be extremely beneficial to know the rate at which the deflector removes the overburden with the motor running at different speeds. Lenny Loparto asked if UDU plans to map all of the holes it makes with the deflector or just those that yield artifacts. Mr. Snow responded that all of the holes would be mapped. Victor stated that the concern relative to testing the prop wash deflector is that such testing, if not carefully planned, could potentially damage the site. He suggested that UDU develop a detailed plan for testing the device and that the location of the testing area be away from the site as it has been defined by previous magnetometer surveys. Victor emphasized that the Board's concern is that UDU, in testing the device, may inadvertently expose a portion of the site and then not have the capacity to deal with it in an archaeologically acceptable manner. Mr. Snow acknowledged this concern. Mr. Jackett stated that UDU's vessel has a very accurate navigational system, which will enable them to provide locations for such off site testing areas. Victor stated that the Board would like to see the data regarding the rate at which the deflector removes the sand at different engine RPM, as this information would be very useful in developing an excavation plan. He stressed that the Board's concern is that during potential excavation, UDU have the ability to remove sterile overburden from the site, but also have the sufficient control of the device so that nothing else is removed. Victor added that it is important for UDU's vessel to have air lift capability for this reason and stated that a prop wash deflector, if not deployed carefully can destroy the archaeological integrity of a site. He suggested that UDU develop a testing plan for the device and submit it for approval by the Board's staff. Mr. Jackett asked Victor to clarify what he means by testing the device "off site". Victor replied that any testing of the prop wash deflector should be conducted in any area where UDU has not detected any magnetometer anomalies but is still within the permit boundaries. He stated that if any artifacts or features are encountered during such a test, use of the device should be halted immediately. Victor added that he suspects, as UDU has always been very methodical in its approach to this project, it already has spent considerable time thinking about how to test the deflector and that this plan just needs to be put on paper. He did not think it was necessary for the Board to approve the plan through a vote, but that it should be reviewed and commented on by David Trubey and himself. Lenny Loparto asked Mr. Snow and Mr. Jackett what the diameter of the deflector is. Mr. Jackett stated that it is thirty-six inches. Mr. Snow added that it also has an extension that allows it to sit deeper in the water.

Lenny Loparto asked Mr. Snow if he has been in touch with the Cape Cod National Seashore over the winter. Mr. Snow responded that he maintains regular contact with the staff of the Seashore and keeps them informed of his activities.

Ed Bell suggested that the Board include in its motion to renew the permit held by UDU a condition that the organization provide a written plan for testing the prop wash deflector for review by the Board's staff. Victor expressed his concurrence.

John Hoagland moved to renew the Excavation Permit (96-001) held by Underwater Discoveries Unlimited for its Wellfleet site with all standard conditions in effect and with the further conditions that the permittee coordinate all activities with the staff of the Cape Cod National Seashore and the permittee submit for Board staff review and approval a plan for testing the permittee's prop wash deflector system prior to testing. Richard Murray seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

C. Fruitlands Museums

Victor reported that the excavation permit held by Fruitlands Museums is scheduled to expire on 4 April 2003. Due to an administrative oversight, the standard notice of expiration and renewal application form was not sent to the organization in time for it to meet the renewal application deadline. Victor suggested that, in light of this oversight, the Board extend the permit until its next meeting scheduled for 29 May 2003. He noted that such an extension would not count against the organization. Victor stated that Dr. Volmar presented a paper on his work at this site for the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference in January and that he shared some ideas on future work at this site. However, in recent conversations with Dr. Volmar, it was not clear if the organization is planning to move forward with this project due to funding and other issues. Victor added that under the powers granted to the Director of the Board, he could extend the permit on his own, but as it is set to expire after the Board meeting rather than before, he would prefer to have the Board vote on such an extension.

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Joe Pelczarski moved to extend the Excavation Permit (02-002) held by the Fruitlands Museums for its Turners Falls until the next Board meeting on 29 May 2003. Terry French seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

Richard Murray moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:04 PM. Nancy Thornton seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Trubey
Deputy Director

for

Victor T. Mastone
Director